

Hlai languages

The **Hlai languages** (Chinese: 黎语; pinyin: *Lí yǔ*) are a primary branch of the Kra–Dai language family spoken in the mountains of central and south-central Hainan in China, not to be confused with the colloquial name for the Leizhou branch of Min Chinese (Chinese: 黎话; pinyin: *Lí huà*). They include Cun, whose speakers are ethnically distinct.^[3] A quarter of Hlai speakers are monolingual. None of the Hlai languages had a writing system until the 1950s, when the Latin script was adopted for Ha.

Contents
Classification
Reconstruction
Phonology
Consonants
Vowels
History
See also
Notes
References
Further reading
External links

Hlai	
Li	
Native to	China
Region	Hainan
Ethnicity	Hlai
Native speakers	667,000 (1999) ^[1]
Language family	Kra–Dai <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hlai
Early form	Proto-Hlai (reconstructed)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: <div> <div>lic</div> <div>– Hlai</div> <div>cuq</div> <div>– Cun</div> </div>
Glottolog	nuc11241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/nuc11241) ^[2]

Classification

Norquest (2007) classifies the Hlai languages as follows.^[4] Individual languages are highlighted in bold. There are some 750,000 Hlai speakers.

- Proto-Hlai
 - Bouhin (Heitu 黑土)** – 73,000
 - Greater Hlai
 - Ha Em 哈 (Zhongsha 中沙)** – 193,000, the basis of the literary language
 - Central Hlai
 - East Central Hlai – 344,000
 - Lauhut (Baoding 保定)** – 166,000
 - Qi 杞 also known as *Gei* – 178,000

- **Tongzha (Tongshi 通什)** – 125,000
- **Zandui (Qiandui 埡对)** – 29,000
- **Baoting 保亭** – 24,000
- North Central Hlai – 136,500
 - Northwest Central Hlai – 62,500
 - **Cun (Ngan Fon, Gelong 仡隆)** – 60,000
 - **Nadou (Dongfang 东方)** – 2,500
 - Northeast Central Hlai – 74,000
 - Meifu 美孚 (Moifau) – 30,000
 - **Changjiang 昌江**
 - **Moyfaw (Xifang 西方)**
- Run (*Zwn*) also known as *Bendi* – 44,000
 - **Baisha 白沙** – 36,000
 - **Yuanmen 元门** – 8,000

The Fuma 府玛 dialect is spoken in one village north of Changcheng 昌城, Hainan. It had about 800 speakers in 1994.^[5]

Jiamao 加茂 (52,000) is an aberrant Kra-Dai language with a Hlai superstratum and a non-Hlai substratum.

Reconstruction

The Proto-Hlai language is the reconstructed ancestor of the Hlai languages. Proto-Hlai reconstructions include those of Matisoff (1988), Thurgood (1991), Ostapirat (2004), and Norquest (2007).

Phonology

The following displays the phonological features of the modern Hlai dialects^{[6][7][8]}:

Consonants

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Labio-dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Alveolo-palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>		<u>Glottal</u>		
						plain	lab.	plain	lab.	pal.
<u>Plosive</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p		t	t̚	k	kʷ	ʔ		
	<u>aspirated</u>	pʰ		tʰ		kʰ	kʰʷ			
	<u>voiced</u>					g	gʷ			
	<u>implosive</u>	ɓ		ɗ						
<u>Affricate</u>	<u>voiceless</u>			ts						
	<u>aspirated</u>			tsʰ						
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>voiceless</u>		f	(s)		x		h	hʷ	hʲ
	<u>voiced</u>		v	z		ɣ				
	<u>lateral</u>			ɬ						
<u>Nasal</u>		m	ɱ	n	ɲ	ŋ	ŋʷ			
<u>Trill</u>				r						
<u>Approximant</u>				l				ʔj	ʔw	

- [ɣ] can occur as an allophone of /g/.
- [ɬ], [f] mainly occur word-initially among various dialects. [ɬ] may also be realized as [tɬ].
- [x], [ɣ] mainly occur among the Xifang dialects.
- /ts/, /tsʰ/, /z/ are pronounced as alveolo-palatal sounds [tɕ], [tɕʰ], [ɕ], among other various dialects.
- /r/ can have allophones as [r, dɾ].

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>	
<u>High</u>	i		ɯ	u
<u>Mid</u>	e	ə	o	
	ɛ		ɔ	
<u>Low</u>		a		

- Among other Hlai dialects, /a, i, e, o/ can have allophones of [e, ɪ, ɛ, ɔ].
- Vowel sounds /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ are common among the Baisha and Jiamao dialects.
- /ə/ occurs among some dialects.

History

Liang & Zhang (1996:18-21)^[9] consider the original homeland of the Hlai languages to be the Leizhou Peninsula, and estimate that the Hlai had migrated across the Hainan Strait into Hainan island about 4,000 years before present.^[9]

See also

- [List of Proto-Hlai reconstructions](#) (Wiktionary)
- [Has Hlai grammar](#)
- [Li people](#)

Notes

1. Hlai (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/lic/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Cun (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/cuq/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Nuclear Hlaic" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nucl1241>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Ethnologue mistakenly lists Cun among the [Kra languages](#).
4. Norquest, Peter K. (2007). *A Phonological Reconstruction of Proto-Hlai* (<http://gradworks.umi.com/32/84/3284367.html>) (Ph.D. dissertation). Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona.
5. <http://asiaharvest.org/wp-content/themes/asia/docs/people-groups/China/chinaPeoples/F/Fuma.pdf>
6. Ostapirat, Weera (2008). *The Hlai language*. The Tai-Kadai Languages: London & New York: Routledge. pp. 623–652.
7. Yuan, Zhongshu (1994). *黎语语法纲要 (Liyu Yufa Gangyao) [An outline of Li grammar]*. Beijing: Central University for Nationalities. pp. 1–10.
8. Ouyang, Jueya (1980). *Li-yu jianzhi [Description of the Li language]*. Beijing: National Minorities Publ.
9. Liang Min 梁敏 & Zhang Junru 张均如. 1996. *Dongtai yuzu gailun 侗台语族概论 / An introduction to the Kam–Tai languages*. Beijing: China Social Sciences Academy Press 中国社会科学出版社. ISBN 9787500416814

References

- Ostapirat, Weera (2005). "*The Cun Language*, by Ouyang Jueya. Shanghai Far East Publishers. 1998" (<http://sealang.net/sala/archives/pdf4/weera2005review.pdf>) (PDF). *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area*. **28** (1).
- Ouyang Jueya 欧阳觉亚 & Zheng Yiqing 郑贻青. 1983. *Liyu diaocha yanjiu 黎语调查研究*. Beijing: Zhongguo Shehui Kexue Chubanshe 中国社会科学出版社.

Further reading

- Miyake, Marc. 2013. The other Kra-Dai numerals (Parts 1 (<http://www.amritas.com/131005.htm#10052320>), 2 (<http://www.amritas.com/131012.htm#10062359>)).
- Miyake, Marc. 2011. Is Jiamao Hlai? (<http://www.amritas.com/110924.htm#09202204>)
- Miyake, Marc. 2008. Hlai -w (<http://www.amritas.com/080607.htm#06072354>).
- Miyake, Marc. 2008. Implosives on Hainan. (Parts 1 (<http://www.amritas.com/080719.htm>), 2 (<http://www.amritas.com/080726.htm>)).
- Miyake, Marc. 2008. Hlai initial verification (<http://www.amritas.com/080621.htm#06172348>).
- Miyake, Marc. 2008. Hlai initial glides (<http://www.amritas.com/080614.htm#06092330>).
- Miyake, Marc. 2008. Hlai palatal codas (<http://www.amritas.com/080614.htm#06082323>).

- 中国科学院少数民族语言调查第一工作队海南分队编. 1957. Guanyu huafen Liyu fangyan he chuanguo Liwen de yijian 关于划分黎语方言和创作黎文的意见. 黎族语言文字问题科学讨论会.

External links

- Bible recordings in various Hlai languages (<http://globalrecordings.net/language/10649>)
 - ABVD: Proto-Hlai word list (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150114122049/http://language.psy.auckland.ac.nz/austronesian/language.php?id=692>)
 - Hlai-language Swadesh vocabulary list of basic words (https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Swadesh_lists_for_Tai–Kadai_languages) (from Wiktionary's [Swadesh-list appendix](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Swadesh_lists) (https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Swadesh_lists))
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hlai_languages&oldid=954410292"

This page was last edited on 2 May 2020, at 07:30 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.